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**FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE REQUESTED TO RESTORE POAMOHO  
STREAM WATERSHED DAMAGED BY WAIALUA WILDFIRES**

WAIALUA -- At the request of Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Mayor Jeremy Harris has requested federal assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture -- Natural Resource and Conservation Service to restore Poamoho Stream watershed, which was damaged last month by wildfires. Mayor Harris also committed The City and County of Honolulu as the local sponsor of the Emergency Watershed Protection project. The City's responsibilities include acquiring any land rights or permits needed for the proposed work.

As the result of a devastating fire that ravaged over 1,000 acres of agricultural land on the North Shore of Oahu, Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz facilitated a meeting consisting of representatives from Castle and Cooke, Dole Food Company, City and County of Honolulu, the North Shore Neighborhood Board, the State Legislature and the United States Department of Agriculture -- Natural Resource Conservation Service. The meeting was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2003, at the Castle & Cooke (Dole Foods) headquarters.

(more)

**Federal Disaster Assistance Requested to Restore Poamoho Stream Watershed****Damaged by Waialua Wildfires**

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"This work is urgently needed to protect the fragile eco-system of Waialua from imminent hazards due to erosion and flooding that can be caused by heavy rain fall," said Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz. "I appreciate the support and cooperation from the City Administration, State, Federal Government, community and private businesses to address this crisis."

The fire, which burned on Sept. 23 and 24, 2003, consumed the vegetative cover within the gulches, severely reducing the condition of the soils, now posing a significant threat to life and property downstream.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess the fire damaged areas, make recommendations to contain storm water on-site and prevent the discharge of pollutants into any drainage facility, any state waters or to redirect storm runoff flow.

Councilmember Dela Cruz, along with Senator Robert Bunda, and Representative Michael Magaoay of the North Shore expressed an urgent need to initiate emergency corrective action to preserve and protect burnt prime agricultural lands and gulches from soil erosion because of the forthcoming rainy season. Their concerns include the potential for heavy flooding and the harmful environmental impact to a polluted Kaiaka Bay.

Honolulu Councilmember Donovan M. Dela Cruz represents Council District 2, which includes Mililani Mauka, Wahiawa, Whitmore Village, Mokuleia, Waialua, Haleiwa, Waimea, Pupukea, Sunset Beach, Kahuku, Laie, Hauula, Punaluu, Kahana, Kaaawa, Kualoa, Waiahole, Kahaluu, Ahuimanu, and a portion of Heeia. Dela Cruz is the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental Affairs. He also serves as Vice Chair of the Committees on Zoning and Parks and Economic Development. He serves as a member of the committees on Executive Matters, Planning and Transportation.

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